



Egremont News

Issue 119

January, 2022

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a quarterly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. **If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall - tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or 413-528-0182.**

Happy New Year:



Selectmen:

Let's put paid to 2021. The year began with a fog of lies and what began as a protest crossed the line to insurrection not seen since the Capitol burned in 1812. Like in 1812, Egremont carried on. Your Select and Health Boards established strict Covid protocols, aggressively promoted but did not mandate vaccinations. Our community responded by showing its traditional solidarity and Egremont's Boards, Committees and Commissions defined and assured infrastructural investments that will shape our daily lives for generations to come. Pandemics and fake news could not deflect our determination of managing our present while we strive to define our future.

MassDOT main street reconstruction project continues to move forward. The 100% design is to be submitted to MassDOT in the next few weeks.

Town employees and officials continue to cope with a population increase and related increase in demand for municipal services, i.e. trail maintenance, trash compactor, zoning demands etc.

The board has approved the use of American Recovery Program Act (ARPA) funding at French Park. The bridges along the park trails will be repaired, benches will be placed in key locations

along the trail and near the Pollinator Gardens, and a new piece of playground equipment will be installed to replace the one that broke. ARPA funds will also be used to put a bench at the Library near the garden.

The Regional School District Planning Board continues to meet frequently to discuss the issues of merger/consolidation/collaboration between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. For meeting recordings and details go to this web site

<https://www.rsdpb.org/>.

Town Boards continue work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan update, Master Plan update, Forest Management Plan for French Park and public access to Prospect Lake. All these very important updates, studies and actions are being funded by grant funds obtained by the Town.

The By-Law Review Committee is working towards clarifying and making the town's General Bylaws current. Voters should expect to take some actions at the May, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

In May of 2022 the Town will unveil its new Web page. One key element to the new page will be to enhance Public Communication and leverage community input.

The Affordable Housing Committee is reviewing the recent draft Housing Needs Study and the Housing Feasibility Study. Once both documents are finalized they will be posted on the Town's web page.

With Wi-Fi available at the Town Hall and the Library, and soon to be at French Park, the town has established a precedent for free public access to high speed fiber connectivity. The Technology Committee will be asking that ARPA funds be set aside to install

the necessary equipment to bring Wi-Fi to the North and South Villages.

Egremont was able to hold its Memorial Day parade because Governor Baker lifted Covid-19 State of Emergency and its restrictions days before. The turnout was impressive. Citizens of all ages, especially local children, took part.

<https://www.facebook.com/georgemcgurnegremont/videos/789647378363328/>

Since Egremont's vaccination rate is relatively high, the Town cautiously, re-opened all of its buildings to the public and all the venues at French Park. In town buildings and retail establishments members of the public are still required to wear N-95 face covering. Meetings of town boards and committees will continue via zoom or in a hybrid format of board members meeting in person with all others participating via zoom. We are pleased that public participation in the workings of local governance is consistently historically high because an Executive Order permitting Zoom or other technologies for posted public meetings.

When we hit some rough patches, such as French Park Dog Park, survey or signage issues Egremont did what Egremont does so well. The community voiced its view, they were listened to and if a consensus has not yet been achieved continue to be addressed.

The Council on Aging is preparing plans to make tribute to several residents that have substantially contributed to town government who have recently passed away. The Town was jolted by the loss of long-time and active residents Sarah Keene and Genis Melendez-Delaney, as well as others. We shall miss them but remain blessed by their presence while we had it.

LaRochelle Construction was awarded the bid for the structural repairs and ADA upgrades at the Library. Work should begin soon. During construction the Library will be closed and Librarian Lesliann Furcht will work out of the Town Hall on the second floor.

The Town expects to receive its transportation van in the Spring. In the meantime, the Transportation Department has taken over coordination and administration of the remaining Taxi Grant funds and has established a volunteer driver program. Please contact Transportation

Administrator Melanie Torrico at 413-528-0182 ext 25 for scheduling.

If you do not have a Verizon land-line phone number and wish to be included in the town's informational and emergency alert phone calls, please let Town Hall know your contact phone number. Verizon land-line numbers are input automatically by an upload from Verizon. All other contact number - cell phones, etc - must be input. Contact Town Hall via email at tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or by calling 413-528-0182 ext 17. The system can send text messages as well as emails.

The Town also has an email notices list. If you think you aren't on that list already (such as you don't receive this newsletter via email) then please contact Town Hall with your email address to use - tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or 413-528-0182 ext 10.

For those not aware, the Town has established emergency warming/cooling centers, as well as shelters. As Egremont does not have a facility large enough to accommodate a large number of person, the town's shelters are out of Town. The Southern Berkshire Regional School campus in Sheffield in the Town's official shelter, and the regional shelter is at Simon's Rock of Bard College in Great Barrington are the two designated facilities. If a need arises to utilize the shelters, and let's hope we never have to, transportation can and will be provided. Warming/cooling facilities, on a smaller scale than the shelters, are the two Egremont Fire Stations and Town Hall.

What 2021 showed more powerfully than ever before is that Egremont is a community of trust. And let's all welcome 2022. We deserve better than 2021. We earned it.

Happy New Year to All!

ECO-TIP

Not sure what's in those paint cans in your cellar? Take them ALL to the paint department at C. A. Lindell Hardware in Canaan. Paint & stains only, labels on, cans not rusty or leaking.

Meet Egremont's Employee:

Don Peck is a fifth generation Egremont Resident. Don lives with his wife, Nicole, and their two small children. He began working with the Highway Dept at the start of December 2011 and became Foreman in January 2017. Before joining the town, Don spent six years repairing motorcycles.

**Council on Aging:**

We hope you have all enjoyed a safe and happy Holiday Season. We want to let you know about some plans we have for the winter months as well as ways to keep you safe and busy. COA will continue with Grab 'N Lunches in January, February, March and April. We would love to be able to have an inside, sit-down lunch with entertainment but for now it's important that we all stay safe and well. Hopefully once the warm months return we will be able to have outside lunches. Look for information on COA lunches on Egremont Posts at the beginning of each month. And remember if you would like your meal delivered just give us a call at 528-0182 x 16.

Winter can be hard for all of us but especially so for seniors. Here are some tips to help you stay safe, healthy, and busy....

*wear shoes that are rubber soled or that have non stick soles

*keep a cane or walking stick (be sure it has a rubber tip) by your outside doors to assist you when you go outside

*avoid going out until walkways and driveways are cleared. If you would like assistance with shoveling please give us a call. 528-0182 x 16

*keep several days worth of non-perishable foods in your kitchen

*also be sure to have plenty of your prescription medications on hand

*limit how much you use space heaters; they are the major cause of house fires

*have a Winter Emergency Kit that includes flashlights with extra batteries, hand warmers, a manual can opener, battery operated radio, whistle, first aid supplies, cash, matches, bottled water

*winter makes it hard to get enough Vitamin D so eat foods like milk or milk products, orange juice, cheese, egg yolks, grains and seafood to keep your Vitamin D levels up

*check your Carbon Dioxide Monitor and Smoke Alarms

*set up regular check-in times with loved ones, your neighbors or your COA...we're always glad to talk with you

*keep busy....organize your pictures, send letters and cards to loved ones and friends. Do crossword puzzles, jig saw puzzles (we have a good supply of these that are available for you to borrow that we can deliver to you

*if you would like books or movies from the Egremont Free Library you can talk with Librarian Lesliann Furcht and we will deliver them to you

*take time each day to be good to yourself and to laugh....remember spring is not that far away!

One more Winter safety Tip.....get one of our "Sand for Seniors" buckets. They are available for free outside by the handicap entrance to the Town Hall. We can also deliver one to you if you call 528-0182 x 16. And PLEASE return your empty buckets to the Town Hall to save us from having to purchase new ones. Many thanks to Ed Herrington, Inc. for donating 20 buckets and lids to the COA for this program!!!

The Federal Fuel Assistance Program in Berkshire County is run by Berkshire Community Action Council. The Program runs from November 1 thru April 30. There are income guidelines and an application form. We have the application forms....just give us a call and we will leave outside at the Town Hall. You need to make an appointment to participate in this program. A representative from Berkshire Community Action Council is at the Community Health Center Offices on Stockbridge Road on Thursdays. Call 413 445-4503 for an appointment.

If you need a ride for a medical appointment, grocery shopping, etc there are some options available to you. You can call the COA (528-0182 x 16) to arrange

a ride thru the Taxi Grant. Or you can call Melanie Torrico (528-0182 x25) at the Town Transportation Department to arrange a ride with our new Volunteer Driver Program. (You can leave a message at either number, the phones are checked frequently). The drivers are local, insured and have had CORI checks.

We wish you all a safe, healthy and happy 2022! Remember your COA is here to assist you. Just give us a call at 528-0182 x 16.



“COA Winter Solstice Celebration and Carol Sing at The Barn. First time but we plan to make it an annual event.” Photo credit Peg Muskrat

ECO-TIP

Amazon multi-layer paper mailers, with white cottony “cushioning material,” are recyclable in our paper-recycling bin. However, MOST padded mailers are NOT recyclable -- fortunately Amazon now uses all-paper ones.

Emergency Management:

If you or someone you know would like to be checked on in an emergency such as severe weather events or power outages, please let us know! You may call or email the Town Hall or the Police Department and we would be happy to check in with you if the need arises.

It's that time of year that Egremont's Emergency Services have your most current information! If you would like to change or add your contact information in the Town's Alert System, please let us know the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses. To assure the contact information we have is accurate, please let us know at 413-528-0182 ext 17 or email wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov

As the winter season approaches, it is important to be prepared! Check flashlights and portable radios to ensure that they are working, and you have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a storm. Ensure that your Smoke and Carbon

Monoxide (CO) detectors are working correctly and have fresh batteries. Check your outside fuel exhaust vents, making sure that they are not obstructed by snow or ice. Never use cooking equipment intended for outside use indoors as a heat source or cooking device.

Make sure you always have a well-stocked Winter Home Emergency Supply Kit that includes flashlights, portable radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food and a manual can opener. Please note that during a power outage, National Grid may not be aware of your individual situation. Make sure they are aware of your loss of power by calling them at 800-322-3223. Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

ECO-TIP

Avoid disposable wipes: Makeup wipes, sanitizer wipes, baby wipes, and “cotton” balls are usually blends of plastic-based fibers (e.g., polyester). They can't be composted or recycled. Use washable cotton wipes, 100% cotton facial rounds.

Police Department:

As the holiday season winds down the EPD would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. We would like to extend a big thank you to those who dropped off gift baskets filled with delicious food. Several days before Thanksgiving 5 turkeys along with other grocery items were donated to the EPD. These items were delivered to families in need of assistance within our community.

The following is a breakdown of the EPD's police activity from October – December:

- 395 total calls
- 4 assaults
- 21 medical calls
- 5 drug offenses
- 18 burglar alarms-
- 5 oui liquor
- 23 motor vehicle crashes
- 1 oui drugs
- 2 break and enter
- 33 other motor vehicle offenses

ECO-TIP

Is it worth it to take your compost to the community bins at the Transfer Station? YES! If it decomposes in the typical deoxygenated landfill, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas 26 times more potent than CO₂. Furthermore, food waste is a heavy component of trash, so the cost of disposing of it is high.

Conservation Commission:

The Conservation Commission continues to have a busy schedule, with site visits and Public Hearings continuing to be scheduled on a regular basis. We are pleased to have been able to approve several significant projects including the new Old Egremont Tavern project and the Prospect Lake Dam repair and renovation. The latter, a complex and long-awaited undertaking, now needs only a few more permits from the State in order to proceed.

Although we generally see Building Permit and Septic System applications, we remind Egremonters that contacting the Commission before undertaking work on your property where there may be any possible wetlands nearby is a good and prudent idea to avoid any future problems. Most local contractors are aware of the need to do so, but your own initiative is important. Doing so is a simple and cost-free process, requiring only that you fill out and submit a Project Review Form, available from the Town website.

Most members of the Commission have now completed or will shortly complete full certification from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. While many of us are experienced Commission members, these "in-service" courses ensure that Commissioners are fully up to date on all aspects of the Conservation Commissions Act and the Wetlands Protection Act.

We continue to seek citizen engagement with the work of the Conservation Commission, especially in the form of Associate Membership. While the principal work of the Commission is the enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act, we are also charged by the Commonwealth with protecting and managing the Town's open spaces through the Open Space and Recreation Plan (about which, more to come in the future), as well as the Forest Management Plan for certain of the Town-owned lands. If you have an interest in environment conservation and would like

to become involved in the Town's efforts, especially as climate change will increasingly affect our local environment, please contact us to see whether associate membership in the Conservation Commission aligns with your interests.

ECO-TIP

Reduce your food waste. To limit impulse buys, grocery shop with a list. As soon as bulk sections come back to grocery stores, use them to buy only as much as you need.

Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Call time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>Location</i>		<i>Call type</i>
9/24/2021	11:45:AM	177
Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/False
9/27/2021	11:27 AM	178
Main St.		Alarm/False
9/29/2021	5:12 AM	179
Avenue		Medical
10/2/2021	9:45 PM	180
Jug End Rd.		Medical
10/5/2021	4:40 PM	181
Whites Hill Rd.		Medical
10/6/2021	10:20 PM	182
Jug End Rd.		Medical
10/6/2021	11:36 PM	183
Rt 71 1.9-mile marker		MVA
10/7/2021	7:45 AM	184
Egremont Plain Rd.		Alarm/smoke
10/7/2021	8:58 PM	185
Egremont Plain Rd.		Medical
10/9/2021	9:03 AM	186
Creamery Rd.		Medical
10/9/2021	5:49 PM	187
AT On Mount Washington		Search
10/11/2021	5:46 AM	188
East St. Mt. Washington		Medical
10/15/2021	9:38 AM	189
Hillsdale Rd.		Medical
10/15/2021	8:30 PM	190
Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/False
10/16/2021	6:22 AM	191
East St. Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
10/19/2021	11:48 AM	192
Egremont Plain Rd.		Alarm/False

10/22/2021
Bow Wow Rd.
10/24/2021
Village Green & Rt 23
10/24/2021 2:44 PM
Hillsdale Rd.
10/26/2021 4:22 PM
Sheffield Rd. & Main St.
10/27/2021 2:04 PM
Nicholson Rd.
10/29/2021 7:28 PM
Town House Hill Rd.
11/01/2021 2:06 am
Main St.
11/1/2021 2:38 PM
East St. Mt. Washington
11/1/2021 7:06 PM
West St. Mt Washington
11/2/2021 1:22 AM
Main St.
11/2/2021 10:15 AM
West St. Mt. Washington
11/4/2021 6:42 PM
Main St.
11/5/2021 6:26 AM
Miller View
11/6/2021 12:50 PM
Dog Park Baldwin Hill
11/7/2021 2:56:58
Prospect Lake Rd.
11/11/2021 1:58 PM
Blunt Rd.
11/12/2021 10:38 AM
Sheffield Rd.
11/12/2021 5:17 PM
Creamery Rd
11/14/2021 11:14 AM
Hillsdale Rd.
11/16/2021 12:09 PM
Main St
11/17/2021 5:06 PM
Avenue
11/19/2021 3:21 AM
Jug End Rd.
11/20/2021 12:33 PM
West ST. Mount Washington
11/23/2021 4:10 PM
East St. Mt. Washington

193
Alarm/False
194
MVA
195
Medical
196
MVA/WPI
197
Alarm/False
198
Medical
199
Medical
200
MVA
201
Medical
202
Medical
203
Medical
204
Medical
205
Medical
206
Medical
207
Alarm/False
208
Alarm/False
209
Alarm/False
210
MVA
211
Medical
212
Alarm/False
213
Medical
214
Medical
215
Smoke
216
Medical

11/25/2021 15:24 PM
Prospect Lake Rd.
12/4/2021 10:01 PM
Egremont Plain Rd.
12/6/2021 2:46 AM
Westerhook Rd.
12/6/2021 3:31 PM
Hickory Hill Rd.
12/10/2021 5:08 PM
West St. Mt. Washington
12/12/2021 2:49 PM
Pine Crest Cross Rd.
12/14/2021 7:47 AM
Hillsdale Rd
12/15/2021 9:28 AM
Pinecrest Crossing Rd
12/15/2021 6:39 PM
Hickory Hill Rd.
12/19/2021 12:08 PM
Lakeside Dr.
12/21/2021 2:20 PM
Hickory Hill Rd.
12/23/2021 4:52 PM
Jug End Rd.
12/25/2021 1:49 AM
Mutual Aid Richmond
12/25/2021 8:19 AM
West St. Mt. Washington
217
Medical
218
Medical
219
Medical
220
False/Alarm
221
Strange odor
222
Medical
223
MVA/PI
224
Medical
225
Alarm/False
226
MVA/PI
227
Alarm/False
228
CO Alarm
229
Structure Fire
230
Medical
Reminder to all - dialing 911 is for emergencies only. Our local emergency providers are overwhelmed with calls and are short staffed. Please be considerate and only call 911 in a true emergency.

ECO-TIP

Are there tree snags on your property? Unless they are near your house, try to leave them standing. Rename them habitat trees! If you fear the hazard, a clever arborist can cut off the top and make it look natural.

Town Clerk:

Elections in 2022:

Annual Town Election	
Tues May 11 th	10 am – 7 pm
State Primary	
Date not yet set	7 am – 8 pm
State General Election	
Tues Nov 2 nd	7 am – 8 pm

Town Census:

Be on the lookout for your town census forms which will be going out in the mail the first week of January. These forms are important to note your residency, keep our records updated, and to avoid the possibility of having your voter status deleted. Review the form, mark any changes, SIGN, and return to the Town Clerk, either by mail or drop off at Town Hall.

Dog Licenses:

Starting this year, the annual dog licensing period will begin January 1st and run until December 31st. The fees for a dog license are unchanged: intact dog \$15, sprayed/neutered dog \$10. You will have until April 15th to renew a dog license for an existing dog without incurring a late charge. Proof of a valid rabies vaccination and spay/neuter status must be submitted for every new dog. Dog license applications will be included with your town census form if you have a dog on record, or can be found at the town's website www.egremont-ma.gov

Technology Team:

Update on Network Buildout. FC has completed and paid for all applications for utility pole licenses from National Grid and Verizon covering all unserved areas in Egremont. The utility companies must now perform Make-Ready work where needed to prepare poles for FC to hang their cables. FC is currently awaiting Make-Ready work schedules from both utility companies. As batches of Make-Ready are completed, FC will install the fiber optic cable (weather permitting) and begin to light up customers in the new service areas.

Low-Income Subsidies. In October 2021, FC and the Town reached final agreement on a Low-Income Subsidy Program, which became effective on November 1. Under this program, FC offers a 50% discount both on installation and on monthly service charges to eligible households that also participate in certain other government assistance programs. Details of the program may be found on the FC website at <https://www.fiberconnect.website/lowincomesubsidyprogram>.

Water Department:

The Department continues its leak detection program; replacement of older infrastructure is ongoing. The Water Department saves process time (and money) by treating less water as a result of these efforts.

As the colder weather sets in, remember to check outside hose faucets! If the spigot is not frost proof, it should be drained to avoid freezing.

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day? A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

Toilet Leaks are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the water in the tank. DO NOT FLUSH! Wait for 15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

Faucet Leaks are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned off firmly, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.

If you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17. Happy Holidays!

ECO-TIP

Found! A collection bin that takes all fabrics including bedding. It benefits "Big Brothers, Big Sisters," and it's at CHP, 444 Stockbridge Rd, tucked into a corner of their parking lot.

Seasons Greeting from the Egremont Historical Commission:

The Egremont Historical Commission has been actively pursuing several initiatives over the past few months, beginning with our new members' campaign. We are happy to announce that Francis Nestor has joined our commission. For the past thirty years, he and his partner, John Krynick, have shared their love of

home décor in their Millerton store, Cottage + Camp. Along with participation in the broader effort of the Commission, Francis will be responsible for our website upgrade and maintenance. Our mission is to protect and archive Egremont's very special historic architectural inventory. The current focus has been on the Academy Building which will be undergoing an ADA upgrade. Our comments have been forthcoming to the BoS and the architect. Our review will continue. The Archive Room above the library has been cleaned and is undergoing reorganization to make it more user friendly and focused on Egremont history. It is available to the public by appointment. We are moving forward with MACRIS phase 5, which should be completed by end of June 2022. Be on the lookout for the history of your property. Looking ahead, we are committed to partnering with other local Historic Commissions and developing Coffee/Tea and History program in order to share some of our local treasures and stories with the community and plans are underway for our Oral History Project which we hope to roll out in 2022.

And now for fun and games. Test your knowledge of Egremont history on the quiz included in this issue.

Egremont's Energy Program Rate 26% Below Winter Basic Service Rate

EGREMONT, MA – Beginning with the January 2022 meter reads, the Egremont Community Choice Power Supply Program will have a new supplier, Dynegy Energy Services. The Town of Egremont signed a thirty-six-month contract with a new rate that is twenty-six percent lower than National Grid's winter Residential Basic Service price of \$0.14821 per kWh. The Program rate will be \$0.10908 per kWh.

"I'm glad to see that the Program is able to provide such great relief to our residents on their electric bills this winter," said Sustainability Coordinator Juliette Haas. "The goal of the Program was to lock in a competitive price that provides savings now and that will provide stability for the next three years."

No action is required by individual consumers. All accounts currently enrolled in the

Program will remain in the Program at the new rate as of the January 2022 meter reads. This change will be noted on the January 2022 bills and will be seen on the February 2022 bills.

There are no enrollment, early termination, or cancellation fees attached to the Egremont electricity program. Residents who choose to opt-out can also opt-in at a later date if they so choose at no cost.

However, anyone switching from a contract with a third-party supplier may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier. Ratepayers should verify terms before switching.

Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the program against National Grid's Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Residents may also visit colonialpowergroup.com/egremont or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 to learn more about Egremont's Community Choice Power Supply Program or to opt-in or opt-out.

National Grid has several programs to help income-eligible families and customers needing special assistance meet their energy needs. To learn more visit nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Bill-Help/Payment-Assistance-Programs.

Meeting Schedule:

Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings on the Town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

(Many meetings are taking place via Zoom. Please check the town's web page, www.egremont-ma.gov, for meeting postings.)

*Historical Commission - first Wednesday at 4pm
Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &
Council on Aging - Meetings as posted.
Administrative Assistant is at Town Hall Thursday 9am to 12noon.*

Board of Health - Monday–Thursday 7am to 12noon.

Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

Selectboard - Generally meetings every other Tuesday 10:00am. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Cemetery Commission - first Friday of every month at 8am.

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 5:30pm

Finance Committee - January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 1pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses:

Prospect Lake Park and Campground - camping, swimming

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

www.innsweetwater.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing

413-528-3230

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.

413-528-0112

www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding Lessons, summer programs

www.bluerider.org

413-528-5299

*Green River Arabians & Pintos -
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs
413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com*

*Indian Line Farm - Community Supported
Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com*

*Ivory Pond Farm -
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug
Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.
Tom & Liz Marino
413-528-9465
www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net*

*Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.
Syrup and Honey
413-528-5710*

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Image taken from the internet

COUNTRY ROADS, OR YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE; EGREMONT; THE 1930'S, 1940'S & 1950'S.

Richard Burdsall - November 24, 2021

Well you could get there from here, but back in the olden days there were no signs, and you might never find the place that you were looking for.

When I was a kid in the 1940's walking my two miles home from the Egremont Village School on what is now Baldwin Hill Road South, there was no signage on any of the roads in town. Rarely were there any cars either. If a motorist stopped by me and asked where the Lawrence's lived, the conversation went like this:

Sez I, "Well, that's the Sinnegan place,--- go up to the corner at the Weigel's farm and turn left. "

Sez he, "How will I know which corner? "

Sez I, " It's a farm,--big white house-big red barn , turn left. "

Sez he " How will I know the house? "

Sez I, "It's the ONLY house", and off he would go.

We all knew where everyone lived, and none of us needed signs. None of the mailboxes had numbers on them. None of the farms had signs out. The Rural Free Delivery mailman from the Great Barrington Post Office, Mr. Hopkins, was assigned our RFD 3 route and knew where we all lived by heart.

We knew where Bull's Hill was, (hint; Craig Elliot lives on Bull's Hill)

We knew where Shop Hill was,--(hint; Tommy TenBroeck and family live at the top of Shop Hill in the George Buckbee house across from the old Clarence Brainard place).

Shop Hill, running north out of South Egremont was known as Shop Hill because of the Dalzell Axel Works. In the 1890's, they made carriage axels in a factory between Hubbard Brook, (now Karner Brook) and what is now route 23. The factory was considered a machine shop. Workers lived in a tenement as well as houses up the hill, thus, Shop Hill.

We knew where the road over Baldwin Hill to North Egremont went, where Newman's Lane was and

where you would find Rabbit Lane. Town House Hill was only four corners with a cemetery, the Orr farm (now Turner's) and a Sinnegan field. Leigh Boice had a farm in North Egremont at a corner in the village, so naturally the road east past his farm was known as Boice Road,--no sign. Millard was a dead end with no turnaround, as was Whites Hill and Dullea. Wait a minute, Dullea is in Alford! Well, you get the idea.

We knew where Shun Toll was,--that was also a dead end, but we knew the Spahr Farm was at the end of it. The nice thing about the Spahrs is that they were unlikely to step out on their front porch and shake their fist at you as you turned around in their driveway.

Blunt, and what is now Baldwin Hill West, were unnamed. If you entered west at the Procter Farm, (1958 to the present) and which was the Kendig farm (in the 1930's) and was the Chamberlain farm (in the 1940's) , you entered at your peril. You might find yourself on route 23--or back in North Egremont, -- or on the Oxbow. Where did you want to go?

Creamery was known as Creamery because it had an obsolete creamery at the north end of it. Simple huh? The road running west past Prospect Lake was known as the Oxbow because of a double sharp turn just over the line in New York.

Jug End Road was a road that was nearly two miles long, started at route 41 in Sheffield, and was named for a place on the north end in West Egremont, Jug End Farm. Again, this "street", and its offshoots, had no signage. To add to the confusion, Jug End Farm might also have been known as Fenton Brook Farm, and people were frequently confused with the so-called double identity. As you can see, I am confused by it. And Googling Fenton Brook Farm, Egremont, Massachusetts gives you nothing.

Also in West Egremont, Indian Line Farm was known as " the farm Bob Sayles bought" in about 1942 but was farmed by the Kirchners. Logically, it was not known as the Kirchner farm because the Kirchners did not own it. Eventually, the Wilcox's bought it, and it became known as Indian Line Farm. In all of this, we knew how to get you there from here, but you would never find it alone because there were no services that made West

Egremont look anything like a village.

Rowe Road north of North Egremont Village was the first right out of the village after the La Branch Farm. Again, no name. Town House from Creamery to Route 23 was unnamed, McGee was unnamed, the four Baldwin Hill roads were unnamed, and the list goes on and on. Woe to the tourist. To make things even more complex, we New England Yankees had, and have, the maddening habit of naming a place for the last people who lived there. My mother passed away, her house was sold, and now her home is known as Gertrude's House.

What to do, what to do, what to do. The answer during the 30's, 40's and 50's was do nothing. Those of us who lived here knew all the above details and clearly did not need signs.

The actual timeline for when road signs were established in Egremont are hazy, and their method of establishment is even hazier. After a brief, and admittedly inconclusive, interview with a bonafide native, (hello, Mary) she and I agreed that we are all flying blind on the actual history of town signs.

It appears that the first signs were put up by newcomers to direct friends to their newly built homes. They were utilitarian, not exactly artistic, all different sizes, and with structurally suspect posts. We would drive by a sign and say, "must be some new folks up Town House". Eventually most of the new people blended in with us natives one way or another.

At some point, perhaps about 1985, the Egremont selectmen decided there should be some attempt at town signs. They chose a suitable design, and up went some signage. I was living and working 70 miles away at the time, so I did not get any input into the Selectman's naming and renaming of a bunch of our roads.

I am still annoyed that they decided to name Newman's Lane, Phillip's Road. There was no need to do that, as there are actually abandoned foundations halfway along Newman's Lane that were the remains of the Newman Farm. How do I know this? Because my family farm has owned that bit of geographical history since 1912.

I am also mildly distressed that Rabbit Lane

was named General Knox Lane. Yes, I know all about The Ticonderoga Cannon on the ox sleds passing through North Egremont on their way to Boston. Joe Elliot owned and ran the North Egremont Store for so long that there is a myth about him he that roasted a steer on a giant spit in front of the store and contributed a hogshead of homemade ale to the troops. I mean though,--wouldn't you really want your address on that short piece of road to still be Rabbit Lane, Bob, and Linda?

I still tell everyone that I think will listen how irritated I am. Nobody listens.

About 1989, the State stepped in and said that all road signs should be standardized to their design, --- similar to what you see now in Egremont. EXCEPT, they still made a major error. Focus on the word similar. ---- There were no numbers or directions on the signs.

When my late wife and I returned from our 30 years earning a living in upstate New York our postal number was 121 Baldwin Hill Road. We immediately went about the details of opening a bed and breakfast. We set up our advertising and used the address 121 Baldwin Hill Road, RFD Great Barrington, MA. Trouble in River City. ----There are four Baldwin Hill Roads, and none are in Great Barrington.

I dropped around to my Great Barrington Postmaster, and he was not particularly interested in a problem that was not his. He indicated that he was sure it would all work out.

So we opened, and some people reported that they could not find us at first on Baldwin Hill Road. They had gone west at the corner instead of turning south and they found that what should be 121 was a field. Ironically, it was our field, but no B&B. They eventually found us, and all was well, ----so to speak.

Finally the last straw was broken when we had at least eight inches of snow on the ground everywhere all winter. An expected guest and his wife arrived at our B&B a little late and a little disheveled. They had followed an early version of Google maps to 121 Baldwin Hill Road (West), driven, into our field with their sedan, and it took him three times shoveling to get back to the road. Oddly, he was not the least bit upset. I would have set him down with a hot brandy, but he still had to drive to town to get dinner.

I had another inconclusive conference with the

postmaster, and a more positive discussion with the Selectmen, ---and about 1993 all the Egremont state approved signs were replaced with more state approved signage showing North-South, East-West complete with numbers for every resident. It was a long way from 1930, but peace at last.

And that is how I remember this bit of history from the top of Baldwin Hill.

Richard H. Burdsall

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Prospect Lake - Photo credit Darya Geeter

Memories of the Old Egremont Store

Stanley Gracyk

Segment 4

Ah yes here we are finally into fall and cooler weather, and as the leaves changed, Joe would always have a favorite saying which went something like this: "When the frost is on the pumpkin, that's the time for apple dunkin". Joe always had some kind of little quirky saying that would get a laugh out of the customers.

For those that remember the 2 foot by 2 foot metal grate in the floor just inside the front door, this was a time to get firewood into the cellar being this was the main source of heat for the store during the winter months. With a little puff of smoke coming up through the grating there was soon a roaring fire in the basement stove.

During the fall a lot of homemade goods were brought to the store for sale such as breads, cookies, pies, cakes, and candies. Also there might be some homemade applejack, cider, dandelion wine, and other homemade spirits which were the pride of the back room butcher block table where many a homemade specialty was taste tested.

Moving a little further into the back room was the infamous beer cooler where I nearly lost a finger while stacking quarts of beer on an overhead shelf. As I was stacking them on the slanted shelf I stood up and bumped my head on the shelf which started quarts of beer to come cascading down. As they hit each other in the air they shattered and as I tried to catch some of them they broke cutting through my right index finger and sending blood squirting all over. Once fixed I have been left with a lifelong 2 inch scar as a reminder of not trying to catch flying quarts of beer. The beer cooler was also useful for storing fishworms (freshly harvested) by myself the night before, which for several years were sold to the campers at Prospect Lake Park and Camp Thunderbird. On rare occasion a harvested deer might hang out in there for a day or two.

Remember the days of a dozen ears of corn for 69 cents, now you are lucky to be able to purchase 2 ears for that price. Crescent Creamery Dairy had the freshest and cheapest dairy products. Can you imagine a gallon of milk for 89 cents or a loaf of bread for 39 cents. As a reminder of the good old days my first full years pay was \$714 in 1972 with a whopping \$41 dollars in Federal tax taken out. Yes I still have that 1972 1040 tax form as a reminder of when the

government did not tax you to death.

In remembrance of those long lost customers such as Natalie Stoddard (art studio), Jack Harvey (tree warden), Rollie and Mary Wheeler, Connie Barton (race horses), Buddy and Mary Dellea (farming), Charles and Mary Voos (Elm Court Inn), Orell and Theda Choquette (best parents ever), Mia LeComte (where's my NY Times), Charles Sieger (Police Chief), Mr. LaBranche (sheep farmer), John Fratalone (farming and horses), and Fred Turner (farmer), who were always loyal and faithful customers.

Per my usual disclaimer I want to let everyone know I have nothing but fond memories of the towns people and the store and in no way want to offend anyone. As I remember more names, aliases, stories, and memories of a much more down to earth lifestyle I will continue to write them down. I am very fond of the good old days one by. Joe, Dean, Craig and Gail, thank you for that opportunity growing up.



*Gaggle of geese on Smiley's Pond -
Photo credit Ari Zorn.*



Stock photo taken from the internet.

*Town of Egremont
P.O. Box 368
South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182*

*www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@egremont-ma.gov*

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provider and employer."*

The quiz:

We would like to send out the olde year and ring in the new with a challenging little quiz on what else – **Egremont History**. Many thanks to **Douglas Cooper**, who spent long hours researching and compiling these questions.

1. What rank did Hugh Newell Smiley achieve in the US Army? a. Master Sgt b. 2nd Lieutenant c. Major d. Lieutenant colonel	2. In what war did Smiley serve? a. The Indian Wars b. Spanish American War c. WW I d. None of the above
3. In what year did Smiley purchase the 100 room Berkshire Inn in Great Barrington? a. 1915 b. 1924 c. 1931 d. 1933	4. Approximately, how much did Smiley pay for the Inn? a. \$100,000 b. \$50,000 c. \$25,000 d. \$8500 out of foreclosure
5. Who did Smiley hire to manage the Inn? a. Fredrick Van Deusen b. Robert Wheeler c. Hester Smiley, his wife d. None of the above	6. Non-indigenous people from which country settled Egremont? a.. The Dutch b.. The English c.. The Germans d.. The Portuguese
7. In what year did the non-indigenous people settle Egremont? a.. 1707 b.. 1722 c.. 1731 d.. 1738	
8. One of the following 2 stories is true and was published in a U.S. newspaper? a. In 1884, <i>The NY Times</i> published the following story: Estelle Newman, about 30 years of age, died in Egremont in 1878. After the funeral service, according to the dying testimony of H. Worth Wright he is said to have confessed to his brother that when he was a medical student at Albany College, he was present at the funeral with other students who disinterred the body after the funeral and carried it in a sack to the college. As they were about to begin dissection, the body showed signs of life and was resuscitated by the students. The college authorities had Miss Newman taken to an insane asylum in Schoharie county. b. In 1923, the <i>Springfield Republican</i> published the following story: A high school student in Egremont was writing a paper as part of a history assignment, concerning the contribution of Indians to the early years of the American republic. During his research, the student, Edward Throckmorton, found a letter written in 1791 by his great, great, great maternal grandmother, Jennie Pease, whose home was still in the Throckmorton family. The letter recounted the following events: Charles Tallgrass, a Stockbridge Indian and a member of the Wampanoag Confederation, ran a small trading post near the Green River in Egremont. In the 1780's he sold pelts and traded with the Local inhabitants in and around Egremont. During the American Revolution he fought with the Massachusetts militia against the British and was wounded in battle. Tallgrass was proud of his service to the American cause, having received the Badge of Military Merit. In 1787, General Benjamin Lincoln, a revolutionary war veteran, was in charge of federal troops in Berkshire County sent to put down the Shays Rebellion. General Lincoln was unaware that Shay's men were within 5 miles of the federal encampment. Tallgrass, had been told of Shays approach, road to the camp and advised the soldiers about the imminent threat from Shay's men. Alerted, General Lincoln leads his troops into the field and put down the last of the Rebellion. It was Tallgrass who warned the troops which led to the final battle of Shays Rebellion. The story had been lost in time until the young Edward found the letter in his family's attic.	
9. Which of the following names were once the name of Prospect Lake? a. Keewena b. Spoor Pond c. Baldwin Pond d. Winchell Pond e. Siter Pond f. Knox Pond	10. What business did I.D.W Baldwin and his brother start in 1843? a. A sawmill b. A dairy c. A textile mill d. A chair factory e. A charcoaling works
11. The 1767 Meeting House was built on which road now bearing the current name? a. Guilder Rd b. Lower Claverack Rd c. Townhouse Hill Rd d. Prospect Lake Rd	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> ANSWERS 1 c, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8a, 9a,b,d, 10d, 11c </div>